

DISPATCH		HEADQUARTERS FILE NO.
INFO	Chief, EE COS, Germany	[]
FROM	Chief of Base, Frankfurt	DATE
SUBJECT	Operational/CATARSI/CABATON Recruitment of CABATON 39	RE "COS" - CHECK "R" ONE MARKED FOR INDEXING X NO INDEXING REQUIRED
ACTION REQUIRED	For your information	INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY

REFERENCE(S)

A. EGPA 27995, 22 September 1959
 B. EGPA-28999, 5

Received 2/6

1. Summary: The following describes the recruitment of CABATON 39. It was routine CABATON recruitment, similar to many others; nevertheless, we are forwarding a description of it as of possible interest as a pattern of how some CABATON recruitments are likely to be run.

2. Spotting and Preparation: Subject was mentioned to [] by CAECTOMY-18 (the former CATADPOLE-1) as a likely prospect. Subject and CAECTOMY-18 had worked together for a few years for a local wholesale wine and liquor merchant. Subject became unemployed early in 1959 as the result of a serious illness, was hospitalized for a good part of the summer, and the approach was therefore postponed until after Subject had recovered. Meanwhile, CAECTOMY-18 had been told to inform Subject, who believed that CAECTOMY-18 was working with the Americans in helping to resettle refugees, that there might be part-time employment available with the U. S. Army. He therefore gave Subject a German language personal history questionnaire. This was used as the basis of a name trace on Subject and his wife.

3. Approach: On the evening of 15 December [] (alias []) called on Subject and his wife at their apartment in northeast Frankfurt. He said that he came from the U. S. Army. He was looking for some part-time help and Subject's name had been brought to his attention by the American Labor Office (Amerikanische Arbeitsamt). The reception given [] by Subject and his wife was most cordial. He was invited in, given tea and rum, and invited to watch TV. This cancelled serious discussion for an hour and a half, but permitted light conversation and establishment of the basic willingness of both Subject and his wife to work together with the Americans.

4. Cover and Proposal: [] , after the TV programs were over, stated that the work he had in mind was very simple, but that it was also rather confidential. It was essential that the persons who helped in the work be whole-heartedly desirous of helping the cause of the Western Allies against the Communist Bloc and that they be capable of maintaining absolute silence about their relationship with his organization. [] then explained that he was engaged in economic research (Wirtschaftliche Forschung Abteilung) which included the need to gather economic data on the Satellite areas. Naturally, gathering of such information was not regarded in a friendly manner by the authorities in the Satellite areas. Therefore, when information was sent to [] it could not be mailed directly, but had to go through local Germans who would seem to be receiving merely family mail. At this point it was quite clear that both Subject and his wife were perfectly willing to go along with this. [] explained that the risks in this type of activity were very small indeed. One reason for it was that there were so many million pieces of mail going through the DDR postal system that it was truly impossible for them to censor effectively. Furthermore, any letters they would receive would appear to be mere family correspondence.

5. Reaction and degree of willingness: Both Subject and his wife expressed complete willingness to cooperate. They said that they did not feel that the risks were anything to worry about, and that they were anxious to help in some way to prevent the spread of Communism. Neither one of these persons is stupid and although the words for "intelligence" were never used, it is only logical to assume that they know they are in touch with AIS.

6. Connections with the Ostzone: Mrs. CABATON-39 has six close relatives living in the Ostzone at present. Most of them are in Halle and they are making preparations to come out. To assist in this enterprise, Mrs. CABATON-39 has been making periodic trips to Halle to carry out money and family valuables in preparation for their departure. She appears to be a fairly cool character and along with a depressing description of life in Halle today, she told the type of thing she has been carrying back and forth. She seems to have no worries about this travel, and says that the authorities never bother her. She plans just one more trip in January 1960. Then she believes all will be ready for the family to come out. She gave [] biographic information on these relatives, and this is currently being checked out. When [] stated that he believed he would not want them to receive any mail for him until Mrs. CABATON-39 had finished with her inter-zonal travel, she replied that for her personally it did not make any difference, for she had no fear of the authorities and did not believe them capable of picking up any connection between us. [] stated that nevertheless he would probably not initiate anything from the Communist Bloc until she had finished her travel. Headquarters will be kept informed of Mrs. CABATON-39's DDR travel. No Bloc asset will be assigned to CABATON-39 until we are reasonably certain all DDR travel has ceased.

7. Security and Control: Through the cover story involving the intermediary agency of the American Labor Office and the passage of five months, the possible connection between case officer and CAECTOMY-18 is probably sufficiently fuzzy to prevent any serious problem in this line. Subject was provided with an operational telephone number for communicating with case officer, and also with a reserve commo system (verbal recognition signals) to make possible assumption of the contact by another case officer without personal introduction if needed. Case officer explained that in matters like these it was always best not to tell anyone although what case officer was engaged in was in perfect harmony with the objectives of the Bundesrepublik. This was essential because of the possibilities of Communist agents existing where one least expects them. As in all cases like this, control is almost impossible to define. It seems that these people genuinely want to help. They also accepted their first payment of DM 75 per month and gave case officer a true name receipt, complete with rubber stamp, in the best German bureaucratic tradition.

8. Conclusions: In this case, because of the questionable state of CABATON-39's health, it was considered essential to recruit both man and wife in order to assure that service on the drop would not be interrupted. In most cases, the wife soon becomes witting of the relationship anyway, though there are notable exceptions to this. This couple should make a very good drop. Through the connections of the wife inside the DDR they may even develop some other capability in the future. They appear to be very discreet, and are certainly not lacking in courage. One is almost led to the impression that Mrs. CABATON-39 would be perfectly willing and able to carry a complete clandestine radio apparatus concealed in her ample bosom into the DDR if she were requested to do so.

Approved:

Distribution: